

Illinois Wesleyan University
Minutes of the Meeting of the General Faculty
on
November 5, 2007

Call to order

- By President Wilson at 4:09 p.m.

Entertainment

- Prof. Schmidt introduced the digitized version of a 1932 film taken on campus showing produce-for-tuition program in place during the Great Depression.

Student observer(s)

- A student representative from the Student Senate was admitted with consent of the faculty.

Quorum - 63

- The presence of a quorum was noted.

Minutes

- The transcript of Prof. Bray at the September meeting will be appended to the October minutes as soon as a computer translation program is received.

Consent agenda

- No items were removed from the consent agenda.

CUPP: Prof. Kearney

- A written report has been distributed.
- CUPP will address the structure and governance issue during the next month.
- In mid-November, CUPP will take up the childcare leave policies.
- Query: Will elder-care leave discussions be a part of the policy consideration?
- Response: The short answer is “No.”. This is however is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Curriculum Committee: Prof. A. Schultz

- CC announced a change of course number for a philosophy course.
- The first issue to be voted on today is the issue of a foreign language rubrics change. Modern and Classical Languages would like an experimental rubric to be used to try new languages.
 - = Comment: This is different than topics courses.
 - = Comment: Offering another language is a “different animal” from offering a course.
 - = Response: This is seen as a need for Chinese and perhaps other experimental languages.
 - = Comment: We looked into offering 175's but Registrar wouldn't approve it.
 - = Comment: They just want to see if the demand is there.
 - = The proposal was voted on and passed.
- The second issue is writing. The proposal is to require one writing intensive course (wic, in the notes to follow) to be taken by the end of the second year (with some exceptions).

- = Query: What happens if a student doesn't complete the wic in time?
- = Response: The registrar will make it easier to track wic scheduling/completion as well as progress in gen. eds. and in majors courses. But to answer your question, I don't know what we'll do if the student just doesn't do it.
- = Comment: I don't see how we can enforce the rule.
- = Response: Petitions for exceptions will be the Associate Provost's problem.
- = Query: If the majority students are already taking a wic by the end of their second year, what's the problem?
- = Comment: I'm in favor of more writing in students' curriculum, but is the supply there?
- = Response: We don't have the supply available yet. We'll need 15-20 more. [MORE COURSES OR MORE FACULTY MEMBERS WASN'T SPECIFIED, BUT I INTERPRETED THIS AS MEANING COURSES.]
- = Comment: Students can take a 300 level wic as a sophomore.
- = Query: Did anyone compare the writing at graduation of those who take a wic as a sophomore compared to those who took their first wic as a junior?
- = Response: No.
- = Response: Studies did compare outcomes and more across institutions but not within our university. The studies did show that where there was a donut (i.e. gap between wic's) the students didn't perform as well. We have that gap at IWU.
- = Query: Won't we still have a gap under the proposal? Aren't we just shifting the gap from the sophomore year to the junior year?
- = Response: Yes, but that gap is not likely to be as significant.
- = Comment: There other writing courses besides those with a wic designation.
- = Comment: We hope earlier offerings will help, but if problem is within wic's this won't help
- = Response: Tthe data calls us to consider where we could improve.
- = Response: We aren't sure that this will address problems that we identified from assessment data, but this seems like a reasonable place to start.
- = Query: Regards enforcement, why don't departments just set a prerequisite of a wic for their junior level courses.
- = Response: We want to create a culture of writing with a Director of Writing. If we were ever to do a portfolio, then we could ask for wic paper by start of the junior year.
- = Response: The Student Senate said requiring a third wic would be a good idea.
- = Comment: This proposal is one small piece of task force proposal.
- = Comment: On resources issue, didn't even look at doing this at sophomore year. We could probably do it.
- = Query: Do we have resources for this?
- = Response: We're going to need some resources because wic sections will be capped.
- = Query: Are the resources not here?
- = Response: No they're not. We'll try to get resources.
- = Query: Can we say proposal is dependent on resources?
- = Response: Yes we are in this proposal. Without resources they won't be here.
- = Query: in order to avoid a larger donut, don't we need to require that the wic be in sophomore year and not in the first year?
- = Response: We have few 100 level wic's now.
- = Query: If a current wic changes from a 300- to 200-level, we would not need new

- resources, but changing a non-wic 200 to wic 200 would.
- = Response: Right now we have just enough upper level courses.
 - = Comment: I would like to have curriculum set before setting the requirement.
 - = Response: That's why the proposal has an extended time frame.
 - = Comment: I understand the risks but need to move forward.
 - = Comment: I would like to offer a wic since I'm swamped now with 27 students who are writing.
 - = President's comment: 15 classes is roughly 2-3 full-time-equivalents. We should be able to implement this, or I'll be back to the faculty.
 - = A motion was made to amend the proposal adding the language "assuming additional resources are available". The motion to amend was seconded. The floor was open for discussion. The vote on the amendment passed.
 - = Another motion was made to amend the proposal to require that the wic be taken during the sophomore year. The motion was seconded. Discussion ensued.
 - ◇ Comment: This would be too difficult for Political Science.
 - ◇ Comment: This is an excellent ideal but too restrictive.
 - ◇ Comment: I'm opposed because of students leaving during the sophomore year to study abroad.
 - ◇ Comment: We're trying to spread out writing so support the amendment.
 - ◇ Comment: Travel abroad students can petition to take wic another time.
 - ◇ Comment: I've encouraged writers to take a wic sooner rather than later.
 - ◇ Comment: I'm against the amendment.
 - ◇ Comment: The original problem was taking the wic too late.
 - ◇ The motion to amend was voted on and failed to pass.
 - = Query: What about departments without wic's at the sophomore level for good curricular reasons?
 - = Response: There is no expectation that every department will offer a sophomore wic.
 - = Comment: I will vote for the proposal since it says "expected to" not "must" so that we can accommodate double majors.
 - = Query: Is the donut hole the sophomore yr or the sophomore-junior years?
 - = Response: It is sophomore that is the donut hole
 - = Query: Would it be ok to require the wic by the end of first semester of the junior year? That would place it about midway between Gateway and a senior wic.
 - = Comment: To complete the requirement to of a wic by the end of first semester of the junior year would be much easier for departments like psychology to participate without greatly increased resources.
 - = Comment: We don't want all wic's in the major.
 - = Comment: Students, too, said they want more wic's in gen. eds.
 - = Comment: I don't think departments need to concern themselves with offering a wic at the sophomore level.
 - = Comment: While I sympathize with departments, its about the students--not about us.
 - = The faculty voted on the proposal and the motion passed.

Promotion and Tenure Committee: Prof. Bollivar

- A written report has been distributed.
- No questions followed.

Faculty Development Committee: Prof. Theune

- A written report has been distributed.
- Exemplary proposals will be coming up on line, likely in a few days.

Nominating Committee: Prof. M. Chapman

- The Committee conducted an election for 1 yr replacement on CC

President Wilson

- James E. Hanson speaker for Founders Day. He has had a distinguished career in Earth Sciences. Thanks to committee for identifying Mr. Hanson. The speech will be in the evening.
- Safety. Over the last few weeks Dean Cavins has moved forward with Titan Transport shuttling around campus every half hour late at night. Additionally, we're considering camera monitoring outside. We're also considering card entry to more buildings. We've talked with The city about lighting near campus. And we're continuing with safety audits on campus. I will report back to the faculty on a regular basis during the year.
- Trustees meeting. Financial Affairs reported the endowment is up 17 percent above and beyond the 5.25 payout, so it's been a good year. Another good sign is that our debt-to-asset ratio is moving back to where it used to be. The Trustees approved a tuition up to 5-and-a-fraction percent, but we have the flexibility to move closer to 5 percent if we decide that's best. This puts IWU about in the middle of two comparison groups of colleges.
- The Board approved planning the development campaign and was quite enthusiastic. One said this is one of the most significant votes for the future of this institution.

Old business.

- None

New business.

- An announcement about the January 31 teach-in highlighted information presented in the faculty packet prior to this meeting. You can review that information on-line.

Announcements

- Attached to the agenda on-line.

Adjournment

- At 5:22 p.m.

These minutes submitted by

Bill Walsh, Faculty Secretary